Lovely Strange Dark
HANA NO SHINZOU
"FLOWER HEART"
BY SUZUKI MASAMI
ONESHOT
Raws: Elemhunter
Translations: Den
Edits: Ximena
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedarkwordpress.com
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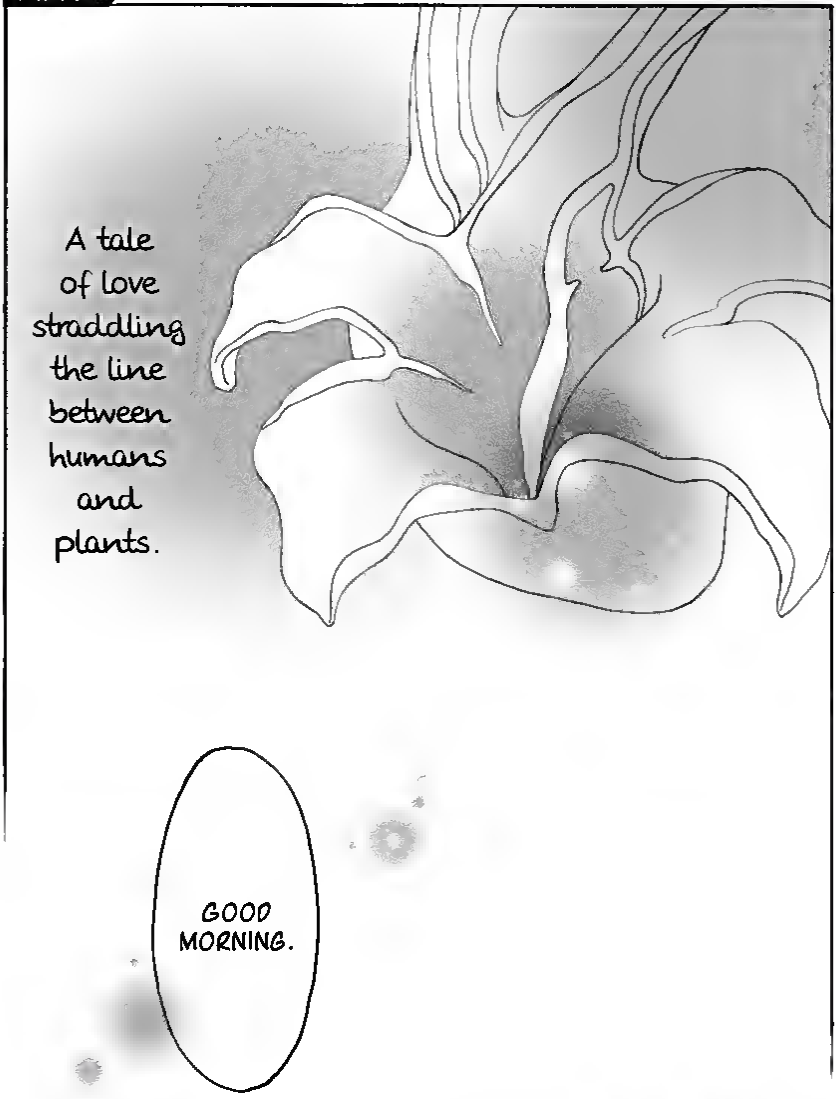
Special Oneshot!! Another debut in "good! Afternoon" from a brilliant artist!!!!



Winner of the Fall 2011 Four Seasons Award Excellence Award for Best New Work!!

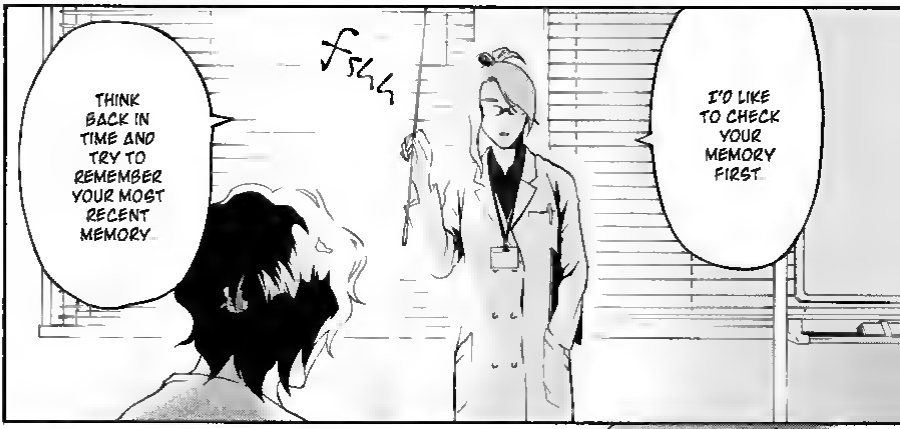
The author's first publication!!

Suzuki Masami

"Flower Heart"
Hana no Shinzou
花の心臓
A woman...?
When I opened my eyes...
Is this...
.....
WHO ARE YOU...?
I'M AIHARA TSUKIKO PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
I'M YOUR LEAD RESEARCHER
...I SEE. LET'S START FROM THERE.
Where am I? Is this a hospital?
...No...
flip
A flowerbed? A coffin!?
Special Oneshot!! 54 pages about the source of life
Winner of the Four Seasons Award for best debut work!!
Suzuki Masami
Remember this name from now on!

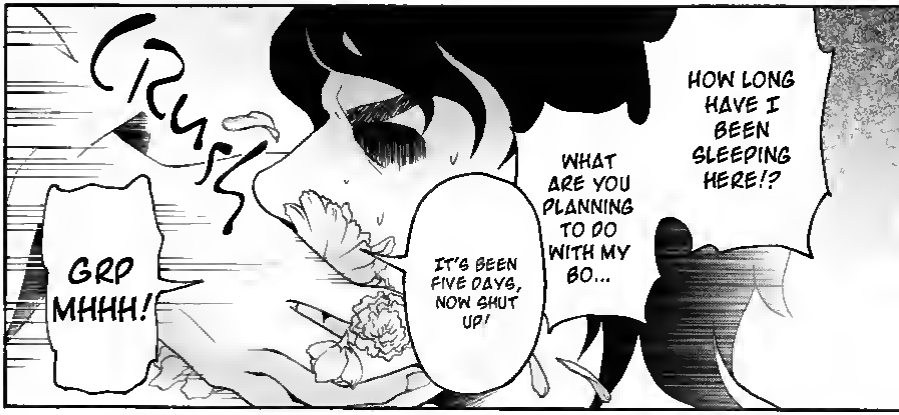
I feel weak...
YOU'RE IN MY LAB
THIS IS HASUMI PHARMACEUTICAL'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER

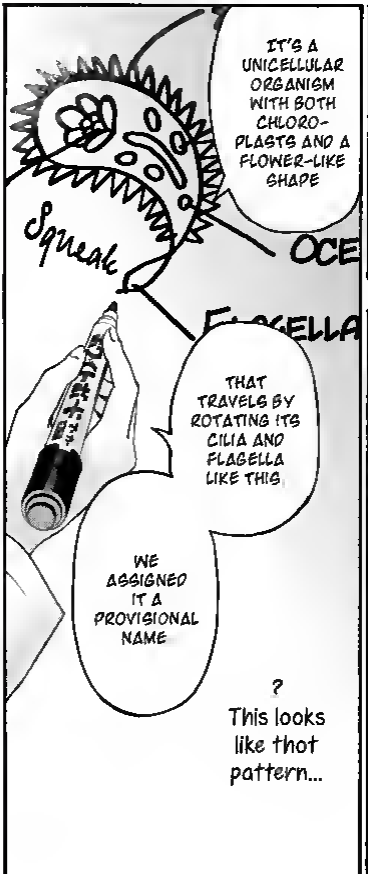
Plop
Plop
RESEARCH...?


THINK BACK IN TIME AND TRY TO REMEMBER YOUR MOST RECENT MEMORY
I'D LIKE TO CHECK YOUR MEMORY FIRST

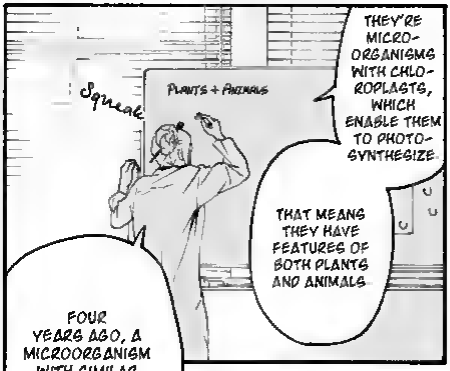
What the hell...?

I HEARD CLINICAL TRIALS ARE AN EASY WAY TO MAKE SOME CASH!
I WAS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB
I LIVE ALONE...
I WAS ABOUT TO GO TO COLLEGE...
HUH...!?
YOU'RE REMEMBERING MUCH MORE THAN EXPECTED
I, WHAT??
WAIT! BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE!
HERE'S THE WAIVER
THANKFULLY THERE ARE LOTS OF BRAVE YOUNG MEN
THE MEMORY BLOCKERS AND PHYSICAL CHANGES ARE STILL...
YOU'VE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHAT IS THIS!?
WHY AM I HERE!?
CALM DOWN, YOU'RE STILL UNDER OBSERVATION
UNDER WHAT!?


HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN SLEEPING HERE!?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH MY BO...
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS, NOW SHUT UP!
CRUSH
GRP MHHH!


IT'S A UNICELLULAR ORGANISM WITH BOTH CHLORO-PLASTS AND A FLOWER-LIKE SHAPE
Squeak
OCE
FLAGELLA
THAT TRAVELS BY ROTATING ITS CILIA AND FLAGELLA LIKE THIS
WE ASSIGNED IT A PROVISIONAL NAME
?
This looks like that pattern...

COUGH! WHAT?
Flowers?
Phleh
DO YOU KNOW WHAT EUGLENA ARE?
roll


Squeak
PLANTS + ANIMALS
THEY'RE MICRO-ORGANISMS WITH CHLO-ROPLASTS, WHICH ENABLE THEM TO PHOTO-SYNTHESIZE
THAT MEANS THEY HAVE FEATURES OF BOTH PLANTS AND ANIMALS

FOUR YEARS AGO, A MICROORGANISM WITH SIMILAR QUALITIES WAS FOUND ON THE COAST OF THE PERSIAN GULF
.....

PLANTS + ANIMALS
NUCLEUS
PAISLEY
"PAISLEY"
IS THE NAME
..... ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
JUST LISTEN
WHEN PAISLEY GETS INTO THE BLOODSTREAM OF ANOTHER MULTICELLULAR ORGANISM, IT CONSUMES THEIR RED BLOOD CELLS AND USES ITS CHLOROPLASTS TO MULTIPLY
IT ESSENTIALLY CHANGES THE HOST INTO A PHOTOSYNTHETIC ORGANISM
I STUDY THE MECHANISM BY WHICH IT DOES THAT.
?
IT CONTROLS THE ORGANISM'S BRAIN,
STOPS ITS HEART,
AND TURNS IT INTO A CREATURE THAT LIVES ON WATER AND SUNLIGHT
Another organism .....?
I. DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
No... I don't want to understand.

YOU ARE THE NEW TEST SUBJECT
FOR THIS EXPERIMENT
I don't have a pulse
YOU DON'T NEED FOOD AND YOU DON'T NEED TO DEFE-CATE.
tch tch
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BREATHE AS LONG AS THERE'S SUNLIGHT AND WATER
And my fingers are green...

THIS EXPERIMENT ...!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CRAZY!!
THERE'S NO WAY I KNEW YOU'D TURN ME INTO THIS!!
TO DATE, UNICELLULAR ORGANISMS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MULTIPLY THROUGH SYMBIOSIS WITH
CRAZY?
THIS IS CRAZY..
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE
...!?
YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE
YOU STILL CAN'T WALK
THUD
I, I'M GONNA SUE
THIS IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION!
HUMAN RIGHTS?
BUT YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN ANYMORE
My life is...

Wikipedia: "Paisley is a term in English for a design using the boteh, a droplet-shaped vegetable motif of Persian origin."

slide
HEY, WAIT!
HUH?
clink
AIHARA-SAN!!
creak...
slide
WHAT IS THIS!? SOME-ONE!!
slam
LET ME OUT!! HEY!!

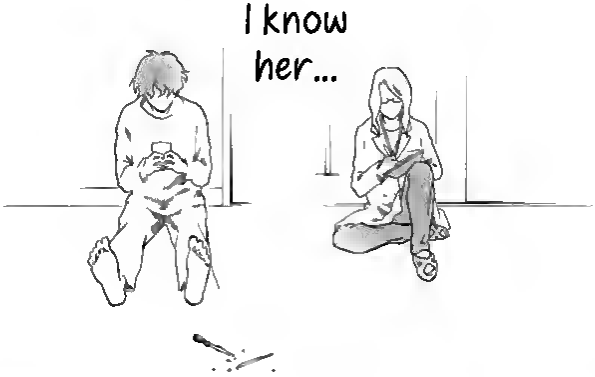
If I go back to sleep, I'm going to wake up from this mess...
I WANNA GO HOME...
THAT WITCH...
This is a dream...
A nightmare...

PLEASE DRINK MORE WATER
YOU'LL DRY UP IF YOU JUST RELY ON YOUR SKIN ABSORBING MOISTURE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET HOME?
IF YOU'RE CUT OFF FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME
BUT I'LL DRAW YOUR CURTAINS EVERY DAY AND KEEP YOU UNDER OBSERVATION
CAN I DIE?
I breathe, and that's my whole existence...
20 DEGREES CELSIUS, ROOM TEMPERATURE 300ML PER CUP
HERE
WHAT IF I
IF YOUR MOVEMENTS REMAIN SLUGGISH, WE'LL TRY SUPPLYING YOU WITH NITROGEN.
.....

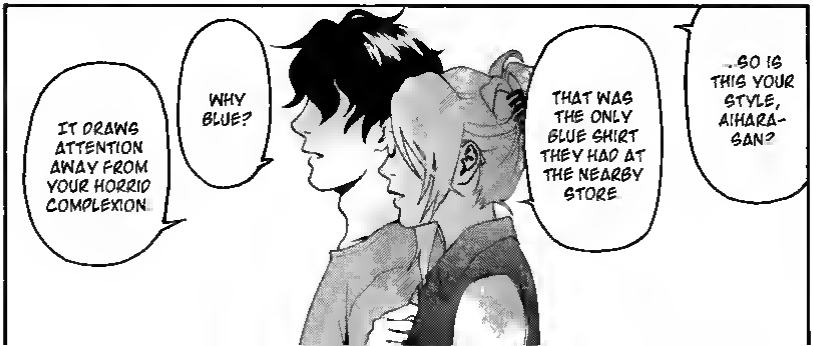
KILL YOU?

!

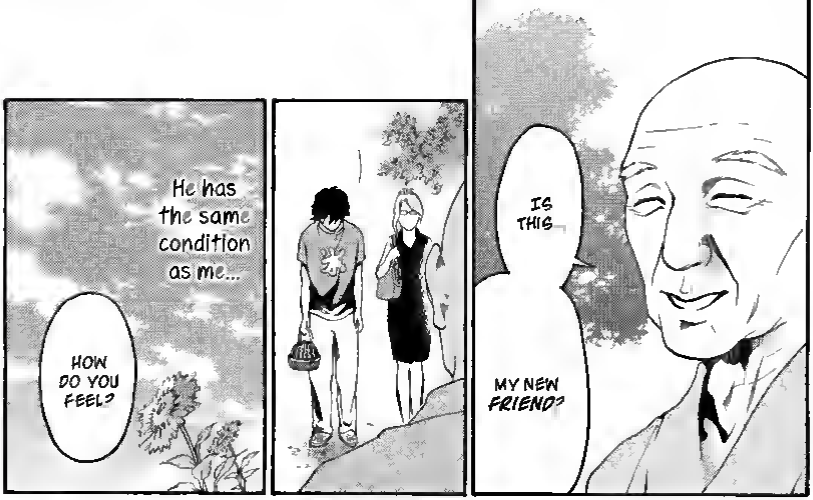
I feel like
? What the...?
BUT FIRST,
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING.
...LET GO OF ME IF YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND.
cough
Slap
DRINK UP, BOTE-KUN.


I know her...

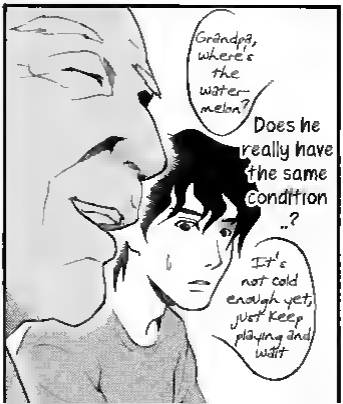
T/N: The shirt says "water"

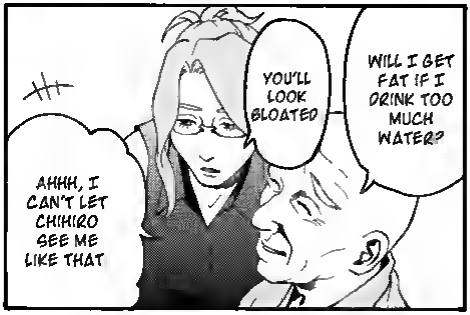

IT DRAWS ATTENTION AWAY FROM YOUR HORRID COMPLEXION
WHY BLUE?
THAT WAS THE ONLY BLUE SHIRT THEY HAD AT THE NEARBY STORE
...SO IS THIS YOUR STYLE, AIHARA-SAN?

WE'RE HERE
.....
SOMEONE LIVES HERE?
flip
AH, TSUKIKO!
CHIHIRO, IS YOUR GRANDPA HERE?
YEP! ON THE PORCH!
AH, TSUKI-CHAN.
Hayami


He has the same condition as me...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
IS THIS
MY NEW FRIEND?

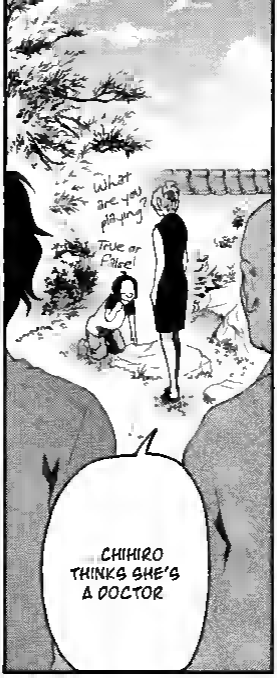
PLEASE KEEP STILL WHILE I MEASURE THE HUMIDITY
I FEEL LIKE THE WATER EVAPORATES AS SOON AS I DRINK IT
NOT BAD, BUT IT'S A LITTLE HOT
chirp—
chirp...
chirp—

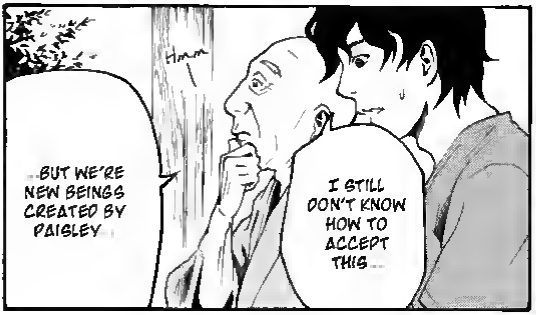

Grandpa, where's the watermelon?
Does he really have the same condition ..?
It's not cold enough yet, just keep playing and wait

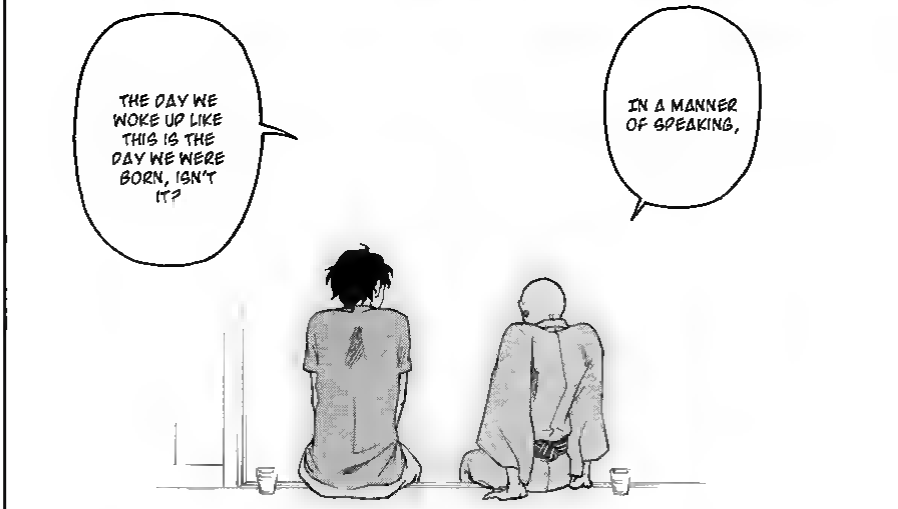

AHHH, I CAN'T LET CHIHIRO SEE ME LIKE THAT
YOU'LL LOOK BLOATED
WILL I GET FAT IF I DRINK TOO MUCH WATER?

YOU'LL FIND PALE ELDERLY MEN ALL OVER JAPAN SITTING ON THE PORCH AND DAYDREAMING ALL DAY. IT'S NOT EXACTLY OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
AND
.....
UM... DON'T YOU THINK THEY'LL FIND OUT?
THAT GIRL, AND THE NEIGHBORS
NO, IT'S EASIER THAN IT LOOKS
SEE, EVEN NORMAL VEINS LOOK GREENISH UNDER THE SUNLIGHT, DON'T THEY?
BESIDES
AS FOR THE HOLES IN MY MEMORY
EVERYONE IS UNDER-STANDING WHEN I SAY THAT MY MIND WANDERS
TSUKIKO! ARE YOU DONE CHECKING GRANDPA?
WANNA PLAY~?

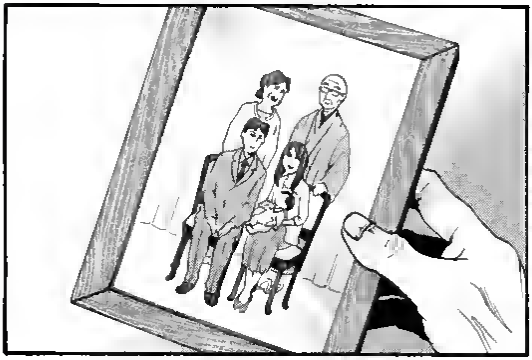
"BECOME"?
THAT YOU'VE BECOME THIS WEIRD CREATURE!?
...AREN'T YOU SCARED!?

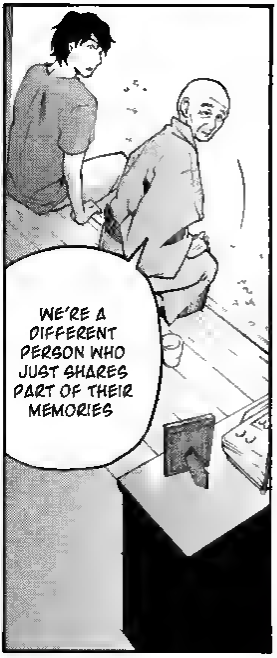

What are you playing?
True or False!
...CHIHIRO THINKS SHE'S A DOCTOR


Hmm
...BUT WE'RE NEW BEINGS CREATED BY PAISLEY...
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACCEPT THIS...


THE DAY WE WOKE UP LIKE THIS IS THE DAY WE WERE BORN, ISN'T IT?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
BOTE-KUN.



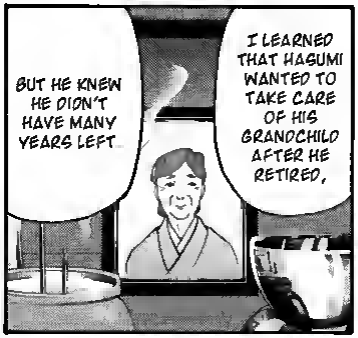

WE'RE A DIFFERENT PERSON WHO JUST SHARES PART OF THEIR MEMORIES

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY,
I GOT THE LIFE OF HASUMI SEIICHIRO.

Ehhh?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WANTS TO STAY WITH EITHER OF THEM.

I'M LIVING WITH CHIHIRO.
I WAS TOLD THAT SHE'S HAVING ISSUES BECAUSE HER PARENTS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

Is he...
THAT'S WHEN HE DECIDED TO VOLUNTEER HIS BODY FOR THIS EXPERIMENT.

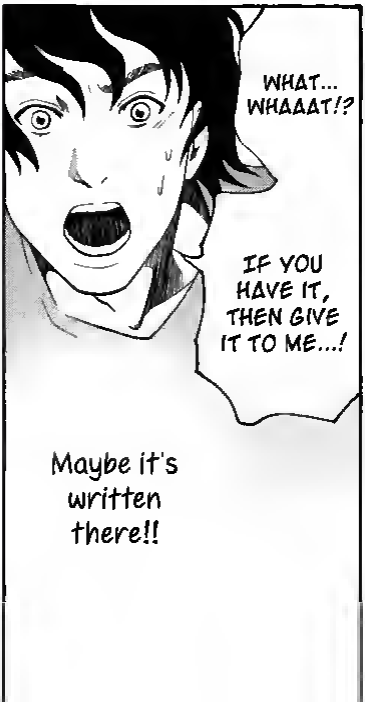

BUT HE KNEW HE DIDN'T HAVE MANY YEARS LEFT.
I LEARNED THAT HASUMI WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF HIS GRANDCHILD AFTER HE RETIRED.

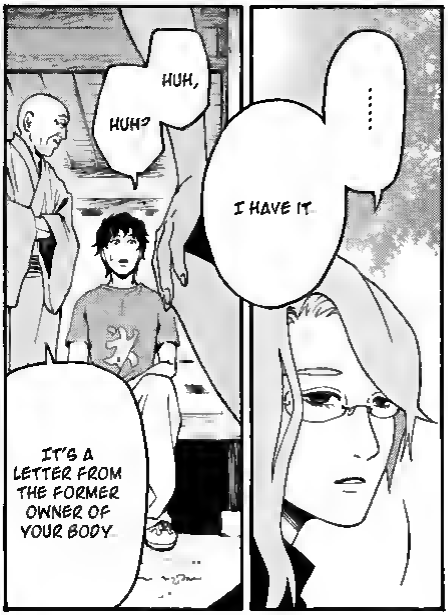
whot's left of Hosumi Seiichiro's consciousness?

Then.....
Wait.....

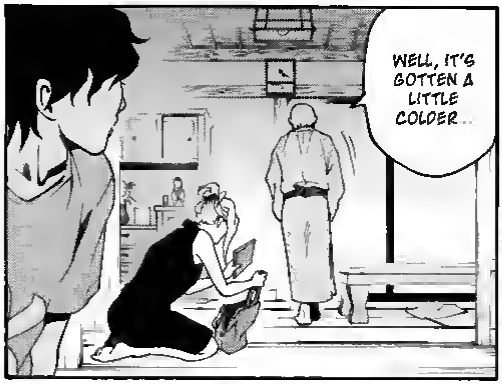
What am I.....?
I HEARD HE WAS WORKING WITH TSUKI BEFORE HE RETIRED
AS IT WERE, SHE'S TAKING ALL THE BLAME FOR THE ETHICAL CRITICISMS CONCERNING THE EXPERIMENT
TO MAKE UP FOR IT, HE PAID FOR THE FUNDING OF HER LAB
He used to run it!?
HUH, AH,
"HASUMI PHARMACEUTICALS"..
LETTER?
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT YET?
HM?
NATURALLY I READ ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS IN MY LETTER
HUH?
WHY DO YOU REMEMBER SO MUCH ABOUT THE PAST?

TSUKI-CHAN HASN'T GIVEN IT TO YOU YET!?
THE "HANDOVER LETTER"!


WHAT... WHAAAT!?
IF YOU HAVE IT, THEN GIVE IT TO ME...!
Maybe it's written there!!


HUH, HUH?
IT'S A LETTER FROM THE FORMER OWNER OF YOUR BODY
.....
I HAVE IT

The reason why "I" was born— !
WHERE IS IT? AT THE LAB? LET'S GO!
I'LL GET MY THINGS.

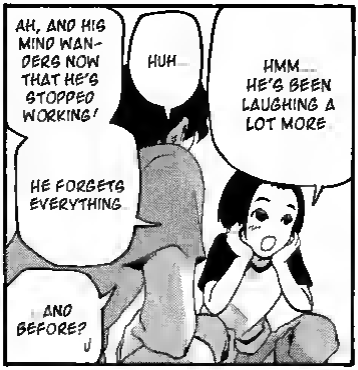

WELL, IT'S GOTTEN A LITTLE COLDER...

ARE YOU LEAVING, TSUKIKO?
I'LL BE BACK

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING ODD ABOUT YOUR GRANDFATHER?
ODD?
DIFFERENT

UM,
HEY
WHAT? YOU WEIRDO
IF I LOOK WEIRD, IT'S TSUKIKO'S FAULT

BUT I LOVE GRANDPA
NO MATTER HOW HE IS!


HMM... HE'S BEEN LAUGHING A LOT MORE
HUH...
AH, AND HIS MIND WANDERS NOW THAT HE'S STOPPED WORKING!
HE FORGETS EVERYTHING
AND BEFORE?

HE WAS SOOOO SERIOUS,
READING HARD BOOKS WITH A HARD FACE
I SEE...

Water-melon!

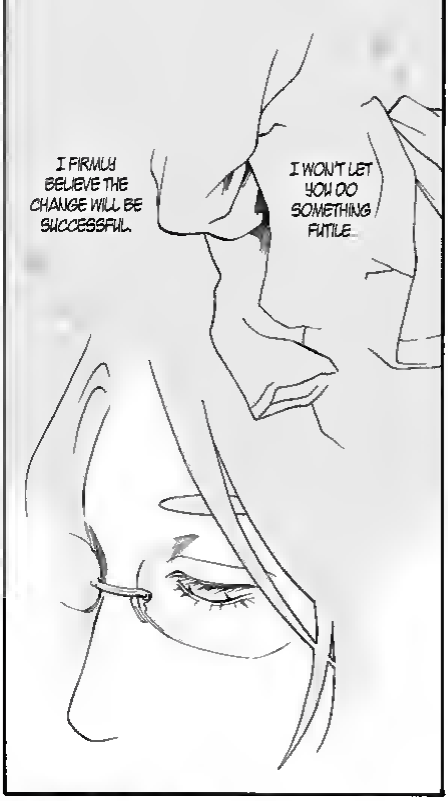
Chihiro!
NOW I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM!

Hop
Oops!
IT'S USE-LESS TO SPECULATE AS AN OUT-SIDER
ONLY THE PERSON HIMSELF CAN DECIDE TO BE HAPPY OR UNHAPPY
.....

THE POINT OF THE LETTER IS FOR HIM TO TELL YOU HIS WISHES
BUT OF COURSE,
IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU WHAT TO DO WITH IT, BOTE-KUN
Handover Letter

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE RESEARCH NO,
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING
.....

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO..
IS TO HAND OVER THIS LETTER FROM THE PERSON WHO FELL ASLEEP
TO THE OTHER PERSON WHO WOKE UP IN THE SAME BODY...
Handover letter


I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE CHANGE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
I WON'T LET YOU DO SOMETHING FUTILE.

I'M JUST A LITTLE DIZZY.
.....

fall
AIHARA-SAN?

HUH?

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ALONE NON-STOP.
YOU SHOULD REST FOR A WH.
I'LL STOP OBSERVING YOU NOW.

YOUR CONDITION IS STABLE.
THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
I'M LETTING YOU GO.
THINK ABOUT THAT LETTER,
AND DECIDE WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON.

knock
I'LL...
CHIEF !!
knock
knock
...UH
Handover Letter
THAT'S PRETTY SELFISH...
....THE INQUIRY COMMIS-SION
WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

THIS IS A WITCH HUNT.

YOU COLLECTED A NEW SPECIES OF MICROBE IN THE GULF OF PERSIA
AND USED IT IN RAT SYMBIOSIS EXPERIMENTS
WE'RE HERE TO DETERMINE WHAT WAS LEFT OUT OF YOUR EXPERIMENT REPORT
CHIEF AIHARA,
THERE MAY BE A SERIOUS BREACH OF ETHICS IN THE STUDY
. I CAN CONFIRM THERE ARE HOLES IN THE REPORT
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RAT EXPERIMENT,
I'M NOT MENTIONING THE OTHER 20
I PERFORMED THE SAME EXPERIMENT ON TWO HUMAN SUBJECTS
chatter

IS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF SANO YASUHARU,
THE RESEARCHER WHO USED TO WORK UNDER ME
My name is Sano Yasuharu
—. IT WAS SOLELY MY CALL
HERE IS THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF OUR FORMER DIRECTOR, HASUMI, WHO I UNDERTOOK THE STUDY WITH
……
AND THIS .

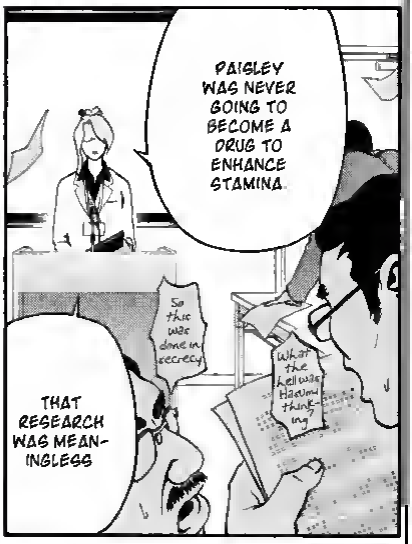
I want you to know the truth.
First, the official reasons for why I donated my body to science...
Let me see!
Is this from him!?
...Are all just empty rhetoric.
"MY OLDER BROTHER DIED WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND NOW I'M SUFFERING FROM AN INCURABLE ILLNESS. THINKING ABOUT MY PARENTS BURYING A SECOND CHILD IS VERY PAINFUL FOR ME."
All this began when Aihara-san and I went on a field survey
DID YOU BUY THAT IN TEHRAN?

I'M NOT USED TO WEARING IT.
IT'S COMING LOOSE.
WHAT?
NOTHING, IT JUST SUITS YOU.
THAT'S OUR GUIDE.
—THIS WOMAN MIRACULOUSLY RECOVERED FROM A TERRIBLE FALL ON THE GULF COAST.
APPARENTLY SHE LIVED FOR THE NEXT 60 YEARS JUST BY DRINKING WATER.
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONNECTION TO THE MICROBES WE'RE STUDYING.

THAT'S HER,
MY MOTHER.
MY MOTHER... IS IN GOOD HEALTH. SHE CAN'T REMEMBER ME ANYMORE,
BUT SHE COMES BACK TO ME.

But after that, Aihara-san started having bouts of anemia
We didn't think anything of it.

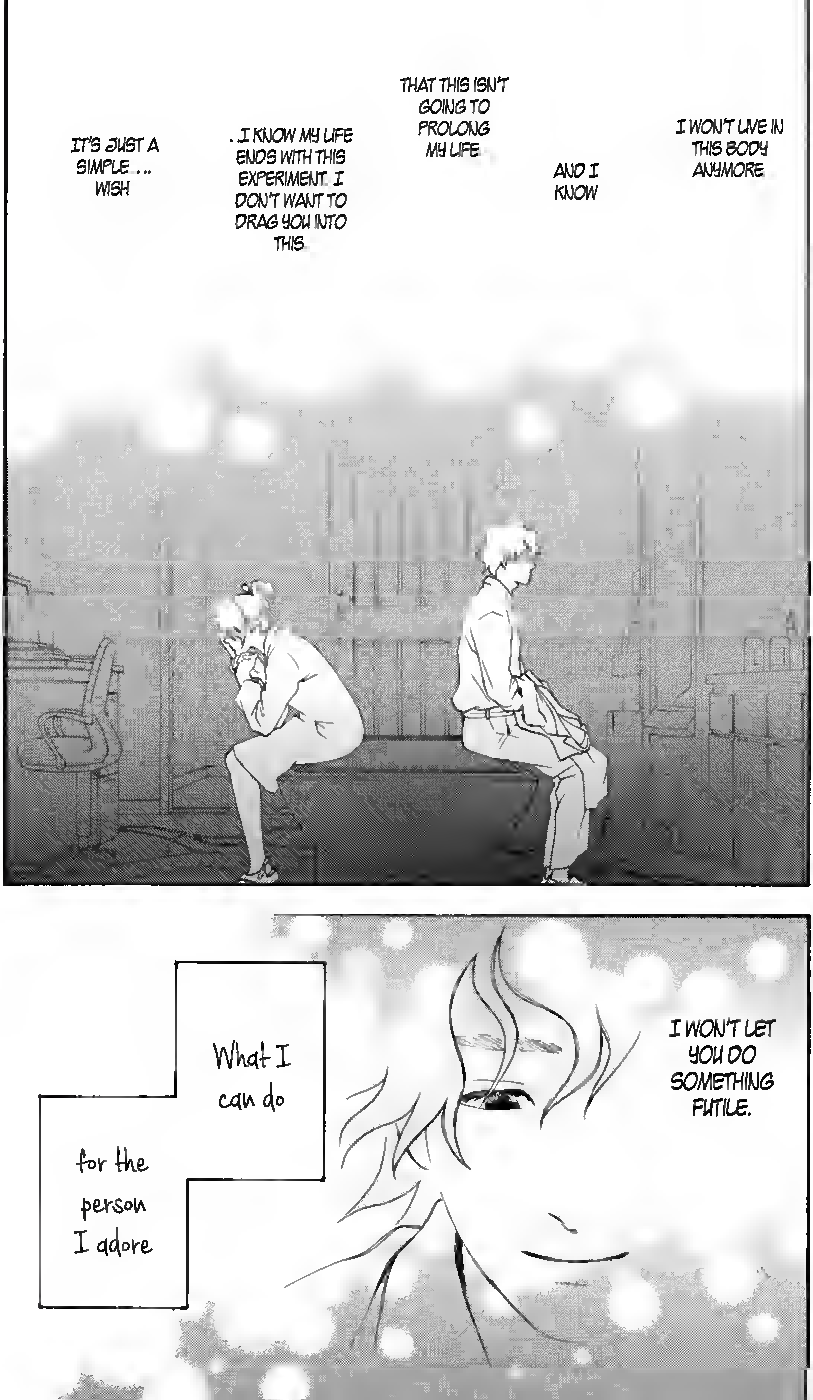
?
At first,


PAISLEY WAS NEVER GOING TO BECOME A DRUG TO ENHANCE STAMINA
So this was done in secrecy
What the hell was Hasimi thinking?
THAT RESEARCH WAS MEAN-INGLESS

IF THE CREATURE I WOULD BECOME TURNED OUT TO BE DANGEROUS,
I WAS WELL AWARE THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISPOSED OF
HOWEVER...

She was
Wasn't the research meant to develop a new treat-ment?
No, it has to be stopped
shake
This is inhu-mane...!
slowly turning into a different creature

...SO WILL YOU TRY IT?
ISN'T THIS...
THE FINAL WISH OF A DYING MAN.....?
I WANT TO TRY OUT SOME-THING..
WAIT! IT'S NOT TOO LATE, WE CAN STILL FIND A WAY!
I...
IF THERE IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY,


IT'S JUST A SIMPLE ... WISH
. I KNOW MY LIFE ENDS WITH THIS EXPERIMENT. I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS.
THAT THIS ISN'T GOING TO PROLONG MY LIFE
AND I KNOW
I WON'T LIVE IN THIS BODY ANYMORE
What I can do
for the person I adore
I WON'T LET YOU DO SOMETHING FUTILE.

Is to become a new creature before she does,
BEFORE I DIE,
and take her place when she finally falls asleep
I WANT TO IMPART MY BLOOD AND ALL MY RESEARCH...

TO THOSE WHO WOULD CARRY THIS HOPE FORWARD
FOR THE SAKE OF ANOTHER.
I want to carry on her will
So, to the person I will never meet,
please wake up and protect ——

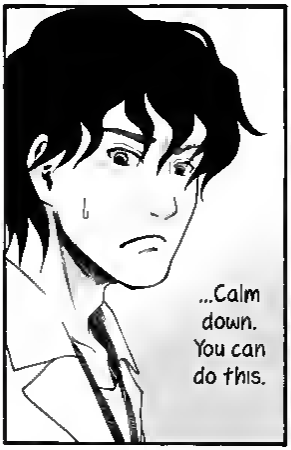
THAT IS WHAT I WANT...
This new life

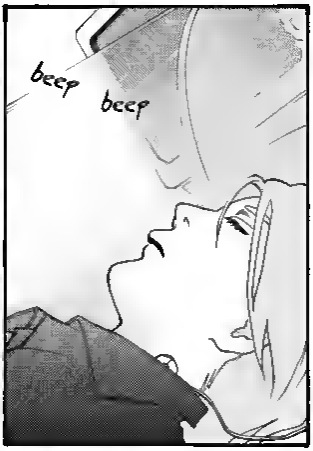
HELLO.
I AM THE PERSON TASKED TO CARRY OUT SANO YASUHARU'S WILL.

And then...

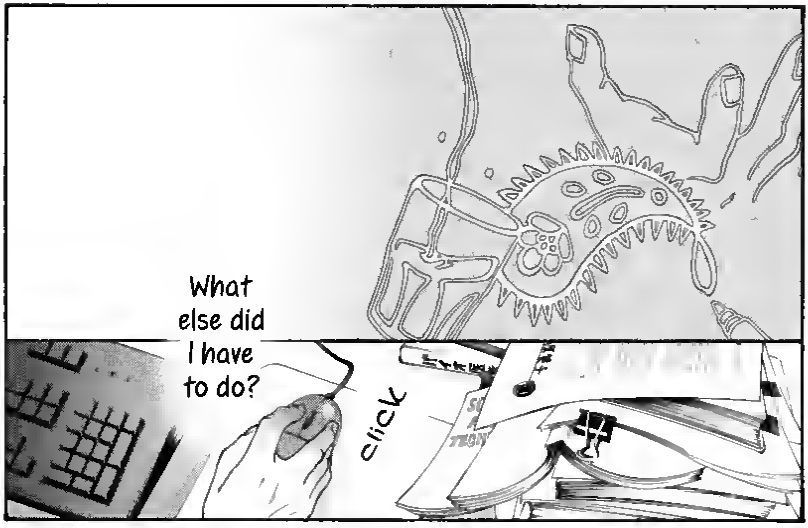
佐野　保春
YASUHARU SA
I WILL BE TAKING CHARGE OF HER.
IT'S MY TURN NOW.

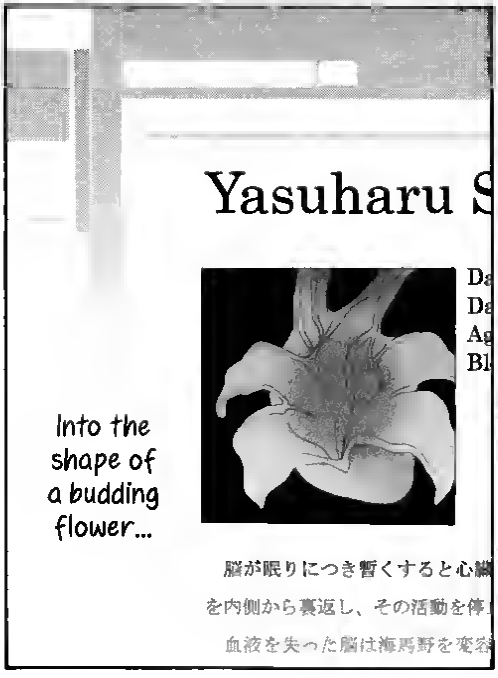
Five days later...

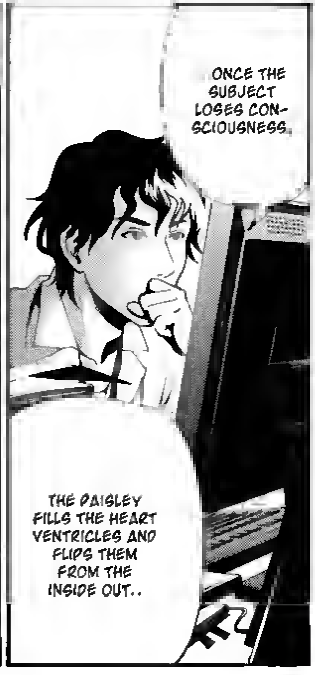

...Calm down. You can do this.

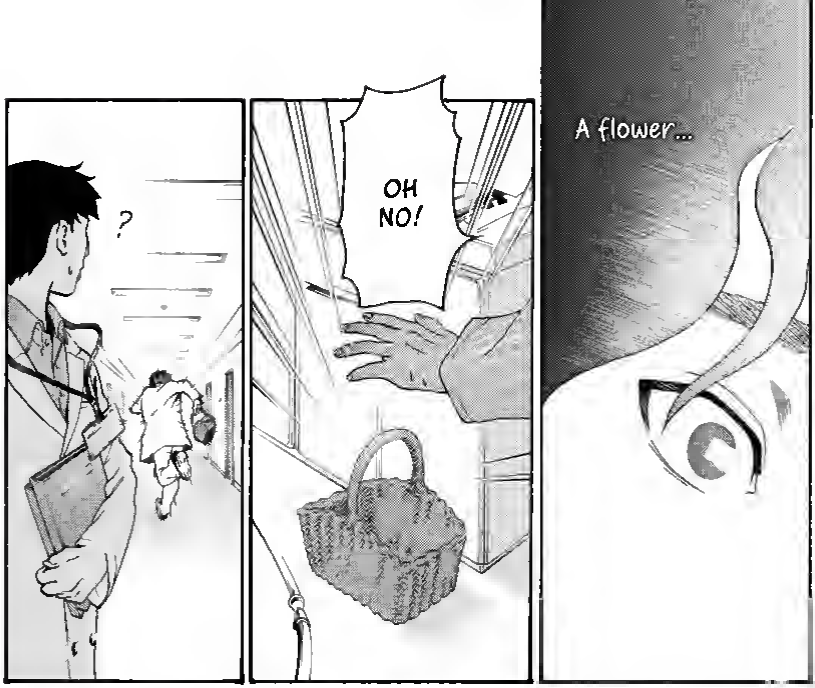

beep
beep

....What next?
Connect the new bloodstream, fix the breathing process...


What else did I have to do?
click


Yasuharu S
Into the shape of a budding flower...
脳が眠りにつき暫くすると心
を内側から裏返し、その活動を停
血液を失った脳は海馬野を変


ONCE THE SUBJECT LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS,
THE DAISLEY FILLS THE HEART VENTRICLES AND FLIPS THEM FROM THE INSIDE OUT..


?
OH NO!
A flower...

BAM!
WEL...
COME..!
Flower Art

FILL THIS BASKED WITH CUT FLOWERS. HURRY...!

To send her off,
and welcome her back.
beeep
My life
GOOD MORNING
NICE TO MEET YOU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Life is about giving what you have received. I believe that these countless flowers reflect my feelings....

goo
Hana no Shinzou / End
Look forward to Suzuki's next work!